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CHUNG-SHA CH'UN-TAO

Chung-sha Ch'ün-tao is located on the southeast side about 100 km away from Hsi-sha.

On the water zone of Chung-sha, We can know from the signs that there are a lot of coral reefs under the sea.

We can find out from the map that there are many reefs under the water around Chung-sha. The distribution of the reefs is from northeast to southwest as an oval form. the latitude is from 15°24 N to 16°15 N. The longitude is from 114°57E to 113°40 E. the longest portion is about 140 km, the widest portion is about 60 km. Whole area of the island is a little bit smaller than Hsi-sha Ch'ün-tao.

The reefs are about 20 mm deep under the water, the shallowest portion is also about 10 mm deep. Therefore, there is no danger for ships to pass there. When our ship near the reef the sea water was little bit green, the reason is that there are reefs under the water. However, If the weather is bad, there will be a lot waves that we won't be able to <sup>see</sup> a clean with blue color sea water.

Actually, Hsi-sha Ch'ün-tao ( should be Chung-sha ? ) is a large reef ring under the water, the shallowest portion on the N.E. of the reef ring is only about 10 mm deep to the surface. We can expect that those reefs under the water will be coming out to the surface become a dangerous zone for navigation in the future if the earth crust is remaining there without change. If one day the earth crust is raising up, Some of the protuberant portions will be soon become islands.

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